



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Cheryl Blanco is a senior program director for Policy Analysis and Research at WICHE. She monitors historical and emerging social, economic, and political trends that impact higher education; directs the work of several policy projects; and produces a variety of publications to improve policymaking in higher education. She was appointed by former Secretary of Education Richard Riley to the Advisory Council on Education Statistics for the National Center for Education Statistics and is past chair of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative. She received her Ph.D. in higher education from Florida State University.

Julie Davis Bell is the Education Group director for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She has been with NCSL for 13 years and has directed the Education Program for 11 years. She also serves as the program policy specialist for higher education issues. Prior to joining NCSL, she was a policy associate with the Center for Policy Research in Denver and taught political science courses at the University of Colorado. Bell received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Davis.

Dennis Jones is the president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a non profit research and development center founded to improve strategic decision making in institutions and agencies of higher education. Jones is widely recognized for his work in such areas as the changing environment for postsecondary education; the formulation of state and institutional policy in response to this change; and strategic planning for postsecondary education. Jones received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the field of engineering management.

Paul E. Lingenfelter is the executive director of the State Higher Education Officers (SHEEO). His work has focused on successful participation in higher education, accountability, and finance. Earlier in his career, Lingenfelter served as deputy director for fiscal affairs for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He received his Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Michigan.

David A. Longanecker is the executive director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). WICHE is a regional compact between 15 Western states created to assure access and excellence in higher education through collaboration and resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. Previously, Longanecker served for six years as the assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Dept. of Education. He has served as the state higher education executive officer in Colorado and Minnesota. He was also the principal analyst for higher education for the Congressional Budget Office. His primary interests in higher education are: access, promoting student and institutional performance, teacher education, finance, the efficient use of educational technologies, and academic collaboration in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. He holds an Ed.D. from Stanford University.